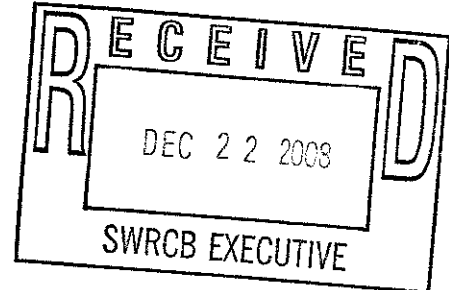




San Diego County Water Authority

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December 22, 2008



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Municipal Water District
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OTHER REPRESENTATIVE

County of San Diego

Tam M. Doduc, Chair and Members
State Water Resources Control Board
P.O. Box 100
Sacramento, CA 95812

SUBJECT: PROPOSED RECYCLED WATER POLICY

Dear Chair Doduc and Members of the Board:

The San Diego County Water Authority supports adoption of the proposed Recycled Water Policy. However, we do believe some changes are needed to clarify requirements and ensure that the policy can be implemented in a reasonable manner. We appreciate the State Board's approach in allowing stakeholders representing water, wastewater and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) to develop recommendations for a policy which better reflects a consensus on how to address the numerous complex issues and interests associated with recycled water use in California. We are pleased that the State Water Resources Control Board's proposed policy retains the basic structure and essential content of the stakeholder draft.

With the current water supply situation in California we are encouraged by the Board's recognition of the importance of recycled water as a key component of California's future water supply. We agree with an approach that facilitates the use of recycled water, while ensuring that it is used in a safe and beneficial manner. We have the following comments regarding the draft policy:

1. Page 1, Preamble: The policy sets a goal to increase the amount of water conserved in urban and industrial uses by at least 20% by 2020. We recommend that you delete the naming of industrial uses. Water agencies will obtain urban water savings by reducing a combination of the residential, commercial and industrial water uses. Specifying a 20% reduction in the industrial sector alone could result in negative economic impacts for industries that are already using water in an efficient manner.
2. Page 5, Adoption of Salt Management Plans: The proposed policy states that local water and wastewater agencies have "agreed to fund" locally driven and controlled salt and nutrient management plans for each basin and sub-basin in

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California. While ACWA, CASA and WaterReuse have agreed that local agencies and stakeholders should fund this effort, this does not necessarily mean that each agency represented by those organizations has made that specific commitment. In addition, the policy should recognize that due to limited public resources, plans may not be developed for each basin and sub-basin. We recommend that you change the wording to state:

“Development of salt management plans will require funding from water, wastewater and stormwater agencies and other stakeholders through a locally driven and controlled, collaborative process open to all stakeholders. While the goal is to develop plans for each basin/sub-basin in California, development of salt management plans will be prioritized so that limited public resources can be directed to areas of greatest concern. Regional Board staff participation in the process is encouraged.”

3. Page 5, Adoption of Salt Management Plans: The policy states that inclusion of a significant stormwater use and recharge component within the salt/nutrient and management plans is “critical” to the long-term sustainable use of water in California. In San Diego County, we are limited in our ability to recharge stormwater due to local geological limitations. In fact, much of our local storm water is already being captured in surface water reservoirs for domestic uses. We recommend that you change the policy to state:

“Where stormwater is of acceptable quality and where it is consistent with local hydrogeological conditions, inclusion of a significant stormwater use and recharge component within the salt/nutrient management plans is critical to the long-term sustainable use of water in California”.

4. Page 6, Timeline for Salt Management Plans: The policy requires salt management plans to be completed within five to seven years. A reference to sections 9.c. and 9.d. should be added to this section to clarify how projects should proceed in the interim period while salt management plans are being developed.
5. Page 8, Control of Incidental Runoff: The policy provides prescriptive criteria to prevent incidental runoff. The policy should recognize that irrigation with recycled water is a beneficial use and the incidental runoff of recycled water does not pose a greater threat to water quality than the incidental runoff

associated with irrigation using potable water, local groundwater or raw surface water. That being said, customers that irrigate with recycled water should develop and implement an operations and management plan that provides for compliance with the site control requirements of Title 22 designed to minimize runoff. The policy should also recognize that agencies issuing a master permit should include criteria for minimizing runoff as part of their rules of service.

6. Page 13, E, Emerging Constituents: We support the use of a Blue Ribbon Advisory Panel to work with the State Water Board and the California Department of Public Health(CDPH) to guide decisions on the constituents of emerging concern. The Water Authority is willing to provide technical staff to support and participate in the Blue Ribbon Panel efforts.

The policy should state that the panel report will be used to guide future "regulatory or policy" actions. As currently proposed, the panel report would not evaluate the ability of treatment technologies to reduce concentrations of CECs in a cost effective manner. To provide a basis for development of future regulatory or policy actions by the State Water Board or the CDPH, section b(4) should be revised to read:


"The panel report shall make recommendations regarding the following:

- a. The appropriate constituents (CECs) to be monitored in recycled water based on analytical methods and method detection limits,
- b. Risk assessment associated with the identified CECs based on toxicological information, the proposed uses, and potential public exposure associated with each use,
- c. Treatment technologies known to reliably reduce concentrations of CECs in the water and the cost effectiveness of applying those treatment technologies for the various uses of recycled water,
- d. Identification of potential indicators for the presence of the various CECs in the water, and
- e. Concentrations of CECs or indicators that should trigger enhanced monitoring of CECs in recycled water, groundwater, or surface waters.

Tam M. Doduc, Chair and Members
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The Water Authority appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the proposed policy. We hope that these comments are helpful to you as you move forward to finalize the policy and we look forward to working with the State Water Board, the Regional Water Quality Control Board, the CDPH and other stakeholders to implement this policy. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Toby Roy, Water Resources Manager at (858) 522-6743.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Maureen A. Stapleton', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Maureen A. Stapleton
General Manager